IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An absorbing element having adhesive properties comprising hydrocolloids in an elastomeric matrix, at least a part of a first facade of the absorbing element including a plurality of grottos, each grotto being at least 5μm in diameter and the average diameter of said plurality of grottos being less than 300μm.

2. (Previously Presented) The absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the grottos are obtained by heat treatment of the absorbing element.

3. (Previously Presented) The absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the grottos are obtained by heating the absorbing element.

4. (Previously Presented) The absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the absorbing element is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

5. (Previously Presented) The absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the first facade is adapted for releasable adhesion to skin.

6. (Previously Presented) The absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloids are selected from the group consisting of naturally occurring hydrocolloids such as guar gum, locust bean gum, pectin, alginates, gelatine, xanthan or karaya gum; semisynthetic hydrocolloids such as cellulose derivatives, e.g. salts of carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, sodium starch glycollate; microcolloids; and synthetic hydrocolloids such as polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol or certain polyacrylates.

7. (Previously Presented) The absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric matrix is self adhesive.

8. (Previously Presented) The absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric matrix is a rubbery elastomeric base.

9. (Previously Presented) The absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric matrix is of material that does ~~do~~ not flow at room temperature.

10. (Previously Presented) The absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the grottos are obtained by heat treatment of the part of the first facade of the absorbing element with electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength of more than 400 nm.

11. (Previously Presented) The absorbing element according to claim 10, wherein the heat treatment comprises irradiation of the first facade with an infrared laser.

12. (Previously Presented) The absorbing element according to claim 1, wherein the average size of the grottos is less than 200μm.

13. (Previously Presented) The absorbing element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said absorbing element is adapted to form part of a medical device.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of producing an adhesive element comprising an adhesive layer, the adhesive layer comprising at least a first zone having a first surface associated with a first set of surface properties and at least one second zone having a second surface constituting at least a part of the adhesive surface of the adhesive element, the second surface being associated with a second set of surface properties differing from the first set of surface properties, wherein material as present in the second surface is obtainable by a heat treatment of material in the first surface, said material comprising a pressure sensitive adhesive composition, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an adhesive element comprising an adhesive layer,

selecting a heat source,

locating the adhesive layer and the heat source in a relationship enabling a heat treatment of the second surface of the adhesive layer, and

heat treating the second surface with the selected heat source for a sufficient time for obtaining the second set of properties.

15. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heat treatment comprises contact heating or convection heating.

16. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heat treatment comprises irradiation of the second surface with electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength above 400 nm.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heat treatment is performed using a mask for protecting parts of the surface to be less treated, said mask covering a part of the surface layer.

19. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heat treatment is performed progressively such that the heat treatment of a first portion of the second zone of the adhesive layer is delayed compared to the heat treatment of second portion of the second zone of the adhesive layer.

20. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heat treatment comprises writing a pattern on the surface of the adhesive layer with an infrared laser.

21. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heat treatment is performed through a liner in contact with the adhesive layer.

22. (Withdrawn & Currently Amended) An absorbing element having adhesive properties comprising hydrocolloids in an elastomeric matrix, said absorbing ~~adhesive~~ element comprising:

an adhesive layer made of a single adhesive material, the adhesive layer forming a skin-contacting surface including at least:

a first zone having a first surface associated with a first set of surface properties, said first surface constituting a first part of said skin-contacting surface of said adhesive layer and including a pressure sensitive adhesive composition; and

a second zone having a second surface constituting a second part of the skin-contacting surface of the adhesive layer, the second surface being associated with a second set of surface properties differing from the first set of surface properties and

produced by a heat treatment of said single adhesive material in the second zone only while leaving said first zone untreated; and

at least a part of a first facade of the absorbing element including a plurality of grottos, each grotto being at least 5μm in diameter and the average diameter of said plurality of grottos being less than 300μm.

23. (Withdrawn & Currently Amended) The absorbing ~~adhesive~~ element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the first surface and the second surface are integral with one another and form a pattern on the skin-contacting surface.

24. (Withdrawn & Currently Amended) The absorbing ~~adhesive~~ element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the first and second sets of surface properties include a temporal profile of water absorption into the adhesive layer.

25. (Withdrawn & Currently Amended) The absorbing ~~adhesive~~ element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the first and second sets of surface properties include an adhesive surface property of the adhesive layer.

26. (Withdrawn & Currently Amended) The absorbing ~~adhesive~~ element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the first and second sets of surface properties include a property affecting the visual appearance of the adhesive layer.

27. (Withdrawn & Currently Amended) The absorbing ~~adhesive~~ element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the first and second sets of surface properties include at least two surface properties.

28. (Withdrawn & Currently Amended) The absorbing ~~adhesive~~ element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive composition includes hydrocolloid particles.

29. (Canceled).

30. (Canceled).

31. (New) The absorbing element as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first facade with said grottos is at least part of a skin-contacting surface of said absorbing element.

32. (New) The absorbing element as set forth in claim 31 wherein said grottos are configured to reduce peel adhesion by decreasing an adhesive surface area in contact with the skin.

33. (New) The absorbing element as set forth in claim 2 wherein said grottos have a different surface property as compared with a remainder of said first facade, said different surface property being produced by said heat treatment.